

## Message Text

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46

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPT-01 H-02 CG-00 DOTE-00

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P 121440Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4741

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: GROUNDED YACHT "AWARE" AND MISSING US CITIZEN

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3868

1. ON SEPTEMBER 5 THE DEFENSE ATTACHE VISITED SITE OF THE WRECK IN SURF LINE 1 1/2 MILES NORTH OF LUPERON. SAIL-BOAT SHOWS SIGNS OF INCREASED HULL DAMAGE DUE TO WAVE ACTION. AN OLD FOOTBALL PICTURE OF RICHARD NESBITT DATED 1965 WAS ONLY SIGNIFICANT ITEM FOUND ABOARD.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 6 THE FATHER, JAMES NESBITT, SR. AND SON JAMES, JR. ARRIVED SANTO DOMINGO AND WERE ESCORTED TO THE DOMINICAN NAVAL HEADQUARTERS BY DEFENSE ATTACHE WHERE THEY MADE A CURSORY EXAMINATION OF THE PERSONAL EFFECTS AND PILFERABLE EQUIPMENT WHICH HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE WRECK FOR SECURITY PURPOSES. THE FATER AND BROTHER RETURNED TO NAVAL BASE EARLY SEPTEMBER 7 AND MADE A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF ALL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL EFFECTS; AMONG THE ITEMS WERE THE LEG BRACES AND CANES OF THE MISSING RICHARD NESBITT AND MANY PERSONAL PAPERS INCLUDING RECEIPTS, LETTERS, INSURANCE POLICIES, BANK BOOKS, PASSPORTS, ETC. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT RICHARD NESBITT WAS EXTREMELY METHODICAL IN RETAINING ALL PERSONAL PAPERS. DURING THEIR EXAMINATION AT NAVAL HEADQUARTERS SPOTS WHICH MIGHT BE HUMAN BLOOD WERE FOUND ON THE BOOM, A

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MAST SECTION, AND THE MAIN SAIL. SAMPLES WERE TAKEN AND

FORWARDED TO THE FBI, SAN JUAN FOR SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION.  
A NUMBER OF ITEMS OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND ALL PERSONAL  
CLOTHING OF RICHARD NESBITT WERE MISSING FROM THE BOAT.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 8 THE NESBITTS ACCOMPANIED BY DEFENSE  
ATTACHE TRAVELLED TO LUPERON WHERE THE FATHER AND SON  
SPENT ABOUT TWO HOURS EXAMINING THE WRECK AND SEARCHING  
FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE OF WHAT COULD HAVE OCCURRED. THE  
OND ADDITIONAL ITEM OF POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE  
OBSERVED BY THE NESBITTS WAS A BROWN/GOLD PAING SPLOTCH  
ON THE PORT SIDE OF THE SAILBOAT "AWARE". MR NESBITT  
MADE PAINT SCRAPINGS HE INTENDED TO TURN OVER TO THE FBI.  
A NUMBER OF PERSONAL PAPERS WERE RECOVERED NEAR WHERE THE  
BOATS EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN LOADED ABOARD A TRUCK. NO  
ITEM OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE WAS NOTED HOWEVER, AT  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN LUPERON THE LOG OF THE SAILBOAT  
"AWARE", PREVIOUSLY MISSING, WAS RECOVERED. THE FINAL  
LOG ENTRY WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS SIGNIFICANTLY  
DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ENTRIES READS: "TODAY 19  
AUGUST I AM A CHRISTIAN.

4. FATHER AND SON DEPARTED SANTO DOMINGO FOR SAN JUAN,  
PUERTO RICO THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 8 FOLLOWING A LATE  
AFTERNOON CONSULTATION WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL.

5. FBI FIELD OFFICE IN SAN JUAN HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO  
TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THIS CASE IN LIGHT (A) OF THE DISAPPEARANCE  
UNDER QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF RICHARD STEELE NESBITT  
AND (B) OF EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS  
DIRECTED AGAINST A US REGISTERED VESSEL.  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, AWARE  
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**Draft Date:** 12 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SCS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SANTO DOMINGO 3868  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 SEP 2003  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GROUNDED YACHT "AWARE" AND MISSING US CITIZEN  
**TAGS:** CASC, DR, US, (NESBITT, RICHARD STEELE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006